

Views from VanDeWalle

Brandy VanDeWalle, Extension Educator in Fillmore County

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AgrAbility Conference

Since my time in Extension, I have been fortunate to become aware of an excellent program for agricultural workers with disabilities or chronic illness. This program is known as AgrAbility and my colleague Susan Harris-Broomfield recently wrote an article about an upcoming conference hosted by Nebraska AgrAbility. The workshop, hosted by Nebraska AgrAbility, is the foremost educational event in the nation addressing disabilities in agriculture. Potential clients and their families, AgrAbility staff members and stakeholders — including U.S. Department of Agriculture and rehabilitation professionals, other nonprofit members, and suppliers of products beneficial to AgrAbility customers — are invited. The AgrAbility National Training Workshop will occur from March 25-28 at the Embassy Suites in downtown Lincoln.

The program will offer information on leveraging resources and direct service to clients; networking opportunities with other clients, service providers and agency representatives; and training. Registration is required at <http://www.agrability.org/agrability-national-training-workshop>. Registration closes March 21.

AgrAbility aims to enhance the quality of life for farmers, ranchers and other agricultural workers with disabilities so that they, their families and communities can continue to succeed. Nebraska AgrAbility's team includes Nebraska Extension educators Nancy Frecks and Susan Harris-Broomfield, University of Nebraska faculty member Aaron Yoder and Nebraska Easterseals staff members Angie Howell, Rod Peterson, Emily Freudenburg and John Davis.

Success can have multiple meanings, whether it is getting back to one's own business, gaining employment in agricultural production or gaining the assistive technology needed to complete everyday tasks. Nebraska AgrAbility's priorities are to develop educational programs that increase individual knowledge, advance capabilities through new technologies, encourage peer networking and provide direct services to agricultural workers in need. Nebraska AgrAbility has worked with 567 clients since 1995, serving clients in 92 of the state's 93 counties.

For more information on Nebraska AgrAbility, visit <https://agrability.unl.edu>.

Source: Article written at IANR news from Susan Harris-Broomfield, Nebraska Extension Educator

Gate to Plate- Women's Farmers & Ranchers College Program

Just a quick reminder that Michele Payn, an Advocate will be in Fillmore County at the next Farmers & Ranchers College program on March 14th with a program for women, titled, "Gate to Plate". This informative and light-hearted program will start with registration at 6:00 p.m., a light meal and program to follow. The venue will be Lazy Horse Vineyard & Brewery near Ohiowa, NE or at 211 Road 20, Ohiowa, NE. This program is for women involved in agriculture to learn strategies for sharing their story of agriculture to today's consumers. This program is free, however space is limited so a registration will secure your spot and help our meal count. To register, call the Fillmore County Extension Office by March 8th at 402-759-3712 or register online at go.unl.edu/farmersrancherscollege.